

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO.

REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT Political - State-religion conflict
HOW PUBLISHED Weekly newspaper
WHERE PUBLISHED Munich
DATE PUBLISHED 19 Nov 1949
LANGUAGE Polish

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949

DATE DIST. 14 Mar 1950

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U.S.C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Slovvo Katolickie, No 47, 1949.WARSAW'S INTEREST GREAT IN CZECH RELIGIOUS CONFLICT

Berne, Switzerland -- The Warsaw Politburo is carefully watching developments in the religious conflict between the Prague regime and the Catholic Church for the purpose of adapting similar methods in Poland.

The difficulties of using these tactics in Poland were discussed at a meeting of experts in the office of Minister of Public Administration Wolski. The greatest difficulty for the Warsaw regime is foreseen in the almost complete lack of renegades among the Polish clergy. Furthermore, confiscating church property and placing the clergy on the state payroll would result in little material benefit to the regime, since church property in Poland is of little value. Moreover, the resistance of the clergy and the faithful will be much greater in Poland than in Czechoslovakia.

Despite these apparent difficulties, the Politburo, the Security Police, and the Chief Information Bureau are developing concrete methods of starting open conflict with the clergy in Poland to bring them under Communist control, since Moscow has given definite orders for the governments of iron-curtain countries to disrupt the churches and gain control.

Czechoslovakia was chosen as a testing ground and as an example to other satellite countries. The campaign against the church in Czechoslovakia is proceeding along two lines: the legal one with the help of the Communist parliament and decrees, and the illegal one, with the help of the police, which is terrorizing and arresting the clergy. At the same time, the clergy is being beguiled with illusive promises of freedom in exchange for the "oath of freedom" and complete subjection to state control.

The purpose of this two-way campaign was explained in parliament by Minister of Justice Cepicka. He said that it is clear and understandable that the state should reserve the right to investigate the loyalty of the priests appointed to ecclesiastical offices to prevent them from using that office for anti-state activities. By separating the Church from the Vatican and controlling all ecclesiastical appointments, the regime expects to solve the problem.

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION			CONFIDENTIAL			CONFIDENTIAL		
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB		DISTRIBUTION				
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI						

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

The Vatican organ Osservatore Romano takes a different view of the matter. It believes there can be no agreement between Christianity and Communism and states that, apparently, the Czech regime also believes this, since it finds it necessary to control bishops, arrest priests, form a schismatic Catholic body, and remove ecclesiastics from their posts.

The Warsaw regime is awaiting the final outcome of the conflict, closely following the methods of the Czech regime, the reaction of the clergy, and the Vatican's stand.

Until the final outcome of the Czech religious conflict has been determined, all negotiations between the state representatives and the Church authorities in Poland have been suspended and no dates established for future negotiations. The Polish Primate, Archbishop Wyszynski, has recently returned to Warsaw from a vacation in Zakopane, and is trying to secure a passport to leave for Rome.

- E N D -

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL